

the Almagest

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LSU SHREVEPORT

April 11, 2002

Wetlands is a nice way of saying swamp.

Volume 41, Number 8

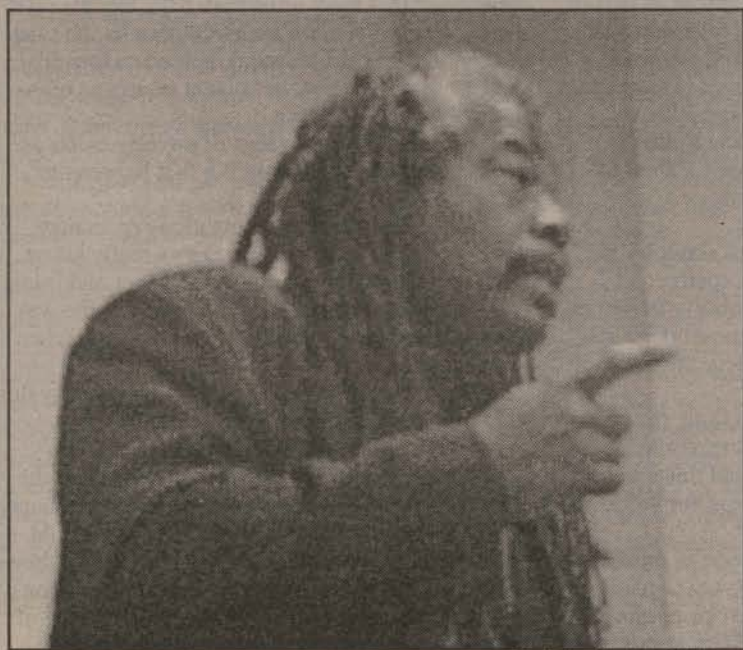


Photo by Dominic Claiborne
Prisoner rights advocate Milk Rahim spoke last week as part of his continuing campaign to educate the public.

Prison rights advocate brings campaign to LSUS

by
Lauren Miller

New Orleans-based prison rights activist and advocate, Malik Rahim, spoke on issues within the criminal justice system, including sentencing alternatives and the prison industrial complex on campus last Thursday.

Rahim is familiar with the Louisiana prison system because he spent a year in jail awaiting a trial in which he was found not guilty.

One of his brothers has also been in jail for 27 years.

Fifty-four-year-old Rahim is a Vietnam veteran born and raised in the Algiers neighborhood in New Orleans.

He is a founding member of the Black Panthers' Louisiana Chapter, the anti-death penalty campaign, Pilgrimage for Life and the National Coalition to Free the Angola Three.

He is also a founder and operator of Algiers Development

Center and Invest Transitional Housing, a program which houses ex-offenders.

Rahim is co-founder and outreach organizer of Housing is a Human Right, an affordable housing non-profit organization in San Francisco. Recently, he has been an organizer in the Green Party.

Rahim claims his goal is to find salvation in Africa, rather than die in the United States.

Upon witnessing horrors in the name of American justice, Rahim now spends his life working on a campaign for alternative sentencing for non-violent offenders.

Rahim is a believer in rehabilitation through culture, and he claims that Louisiana prisons are more violent than any environment outside war.

Placing non-violent offenders in prison only increases their chances of creating violent acts when released, Rahim said.

Rahim plans a summer tour of Louisiana to promote his cam-

paign.

His tour co-sponsors are NWLA Greens, NWLA Democracy Action Project and the LSUS Black Students Association.

LSUS student Shawn Christy, who is involved with all of the co-sponsoring organizations, said, "The goal of this event is to not only raise awareness about these issues, but to encourage people to get involved in the democratic process and to see ways they can make a difference in their communities."

"We want to help folks connect with like-minded people," he said. "to build a progressive community in the area, and to take the many voices that cannot be heard alone and form them into one voice that cannot be ignored."

For more information on Rahim's tour, visit www.malik.rox.com or log onto www.nwlagreens.org.

Registration continues despite delay due to technical difficulties

by
Heather Hovis

Students who tried to register on April 1 might have thought LSUS was playing an April Fool's Day joke when they discovered they could not register. In reality a hardware problem delayed students from registering until April 3.

Director of computing services Shelby Keith said the problem occurred when the system received an upgrade during spring break. Computing Services had planned with IBM to do the upgrade at that time in order to affect as few students as possible, Keith said.

The upgrade began on Friday, March 29. IBM predicted it would take several hours, but some pertinent equipment went out. Replacement parts were ordered immediately, but the local IBM technician was not able to complete the repair work. Due to the holiday weekend, an IBM technician from Dallas could not come to make the repairs until Monday, April 1.

Students who attempted to register via phone were

informed of the delay and prompted to check the LSUS Web site for a new registration time. A message that registration would commence on April 3 was posted on the Web site for students attempting to register online or for students checking for the new registration schedule.

The new registration schedule allowed seniors and graduate students to register on Wednesday, juniors and sophomores on Thursday and freshmen on Friday.

Registrar Julie Wilkins said her office did not receive many calls concerning the delay because students read the message posted on the Web. Wilkins said that registration is running smoothly now.

LSUS recently converted to a registration procedure that does not require anyone to physically come to the campus to register. While finding that registration had been delayed through the Web site may have been an inconvenience to some, Keith and Wilkins both said that it was less inconvenient than making a trip to campus to discover the same.

SGA gets new blood

by
Candice Leone

The student body has elected SGA officers and college senators for the next academic year. The election was held March 18-24 through the online Blackboard system.

The new officers serving for the next year are Jeff Strozier, president; Ben Thomas, vice president; Benjamin Liscano and Daniel Martin, senators from the College of Sciences; Crystal Boyd, senator from the College of Education; Jason Gills and Patrina Williamson, senators from the College of Business; and Dominic Claiborne and Ashley Sanders, senators from the College of Liberal Arts.

There is no official count available for the number of students who voted in the election

because not all voters voted in each race, but the number is estimated at 500.

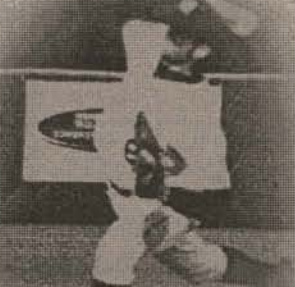
Strozier, who was elected to his second consecutive term as president, said the number was pulled from number of votes received for the Professor of the Year Award, which took place on Blackboard concurrently with the elections.

Strozier said the turnout at the candidate debate held at The Port the week of the election was not as big as he had hoped, but that it still went smoothly.

"It surprised me that more people didn't show up, because I thought people would want the chance to participate in it," Strozier said.

The four candidates for senator from the College of Liberal

Pilots in position to enter baseball playoffs



page 6

Continued on pg. 6

The Almagest

("al-meh-jest". n): Arabic: "The Majestic"
any of several medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge
(as the 9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy's
Greek work on astronomy)
- Webster's Third New International Dictionary

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From the editor

■ Question everything.

It's about this time every semester that I find myself fighting the depression caused when I realize just how much of a gap there is between what I would like to accomplish by the end of the semester and what I am actually capable of.

I become bogged down in worrying about papers, including this one, and begin sinking into a swamp of self-pity. When I start to think about it, I realize that this self-pity is really the result of selfishness.

I like to think that I came to college as part of my continuing quest to extinguish selfishness. It was my belief that in college I would improve myself as a person by using whatever insight and intelligence I have to search for those illusive truths we all seek. Having found the truth, I would then be able to better serve my fellow human beings by sharing it with them.

It turns out this is pretty hard.

Supposedly, knowledge comes about by the critical examination of ideas and experience.

We must test ideas for their validity before incorporating them into our own mindset if we are to be the nice critical thinkers college students are supposed to become.

But really, no one wants us to think for ourselves. If we were all critical thinkers, we wouldn't need anyone to lead us and this would upset the entire status quo that keeps our world in balance.

In our information age, everyone in power has a point of view that they are trying to pass off as the correct one. If we accept that point of view as true, it validates that person's claim to power.

The crisis in the Middle East is a prime example of how bias can influence how events are portrayed. The media masters, who feed us most of our thoughts, are able to manipulate language to subconsciously lead us to certain conclusions.

I recently read a report by Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting that concluded that American media, with a pro-Israeli bias, cover the conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis as one of Palestinian "attacks" and Israeli "retaliation."

A careful examination of this — or any conflict — reveals that it is much more complex than a matter of the Good Guys vs. the Bad Guys. But because Americans like clear sides from which to choose, the issues are simplified for mass consumption.

So how can we really know what to believe?

This is where educating ourselves comes in handy.

Our experience of the world is limited, so in order to learn more about it we must expose ourselves to other points of view. If we are able to go outside ourselves, to expand our consciousness by incorporating the insights of others into our own mindset, we have a wider base from which to criticize new ideas.

It can be hard for me to balance my tendency toward introversion with the interaction with others necessary for exposure to new points of view.

While normally I would seclude myself in a dark room somewhere with a book or pen and notepad, it is important for me to go out into the

real world occasionally if I expect to accurately understand it.

When I do, I'm sometimes lucky enough to hear a new voice and find out how another person perceives things to be.

Last week, Malik Rahim offered his perspective on American justice. He has obviously seen things and been places that people like me only have a vague concept of.

Though many of his beliefs may seem at odds with the values many of us hold, it is important to remember that his voice is the honest sharing of experience that most of us may have trouble relating to. Even if we don't agree with what he says, the chance to hear him speak helped us formulate our own point of view because it makes us question why we don't agree.

For most of us, the idea of poverty exists as an abstract concept, something that happens to someone else.

While as college students many of us may consider ourselves poor, few of us really know what it is like to live in poverty, hunger and injustice. For us, the world usually works out the way we think it should and we get really whiny when it doesn't.

However, for many people in this country this kind of justice is never found. Dwelling in ignorance and poverty, some turn to crime to cope. Many would say that this is because of the inaccessibility of opportunities, such as the chance at an education we all have gotten. They would say people enter the judicial system because they have been dealt with unjustly. And as the prison system becomes a growing industry, the cycle of injustice continues.

Rahim is a voice of criticism who has seen how our prison system works from the inside.

Few of us ever have had or ever will have this experience. We were able to learn from the mistakes of others and make the right choices to prevent ourselves from going to jail. Rahim raises an important question: does everyone have this chance?

Realizing how hard life is for some people really makes complaining about little things like a term paper seem vain. Our schoolwork is something we choose to do because it allows us to learn. We are lucky to have that chance and should try to share our opportunities with others whenever we can.

Because we have limited experience we must question all of our assumptions. We must question everything we are taught as the result of someone else's assumptions. And we must expose ourselves to new points of view and new experiences whenever we can. A good way to do this is to volunteer, to go outside ourselves and share experiences with those who are less fortunate by dedicating some of our time to helping others. The recent Volunteer Fair and upcoming Volunteer Day give us a chance not only to give back, but to expose ourselves to new perspectives and expand our insight.

The only reason to want to suppress a point of view is fear that it might be believed as true.

-mm

Clarifications

In our last issue, we had a story about summer graduates possibly being denied the chance to walk in this spring's commencement ceremonies. That day, we were informed that the administration had decided that summer graduates may in fact walk during spring commencement this year and the issue is being reconsidered for next year.

In a headline in our last issue, we mistakenly referred to registration as pre-registration. Thanks to our leap into the 21st century, Internet registration is now registration and what was called registration is now late registration.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor:

I had three major impressions when I heard Malik Rahim speak at the University Center:

1. He was overwhelmed with anger.
2. He saw himself as a victim.
3. He had a twisted view of the system.

Malik spoke of his anger and outrage at a system that would punish crimes such as marijuana and vandalism of vehicles with jail time. He considered these non-violent crimes.

Vandalism is the type of crime that runs up my insurance rates. It violates my personal space and damages what I work hard to achieve. If a person is let go for such crimes, it sends the message that it is OK to display such behavior.

Marijuana use is not just getting high. Dope dealers do not get where they are because that is an occupational goal. It is a result of the need to fulfill addiction. For this to be considered non-violent, I would like to remind folks that less than two years ago, a prominent disc jockey on a local station was murdered for a marijuana deal that went wrong. When drugs and money are involved, so are guns, angry tempers and violent crimes.

Malik spoke of the injustice of a person having to pay for collect calls from jail because they could not write a letter. The problem is not the jail. The problem is the illiteracy and ignorance of the person in jail. Malik would be better off to educate himself and others with basic skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic. To pass on these skills would be more helpful than to try and change an unsympathetic system. (I noticed many errors of which an elementary student should be aware of in his handout literature.)

He spoke of the disappointment of his daughter bringing home the true love of her life. He disapproved because the man displayed the violent angry tendencies of men who spend their lives in prison. Perhaps she learned to love the role model of her father.

Malik was a member of the Black Panthers, a group that I remember as angry radicals. Sometimes, you have to let go of the anger. His anger over losing the right to vote as a felon is sad. Perhaps he should focus on the privileges we receive as citizens of the United States rather than his perceived "unjust punishment" of the crimes committed. We will always have jails and budgets to support them. Perhaps his energies would be more effective directed toward educational programs. Teach people they have a choice. How about a random act of kindness for a change?

Rachel Ginsburg
junior, communications

Campus police blotter

April 6

11:05 a.m.

A resident of the UCA filed a complaint with campus police that his car had been broken into and that some items had been stolen. The officer observed some speaker wires hanging down from the vehicle but no sign of forced entry. The officer advised the complainant to contact his insurance company if he wanted to file a claim and told him that university police would file a report.

April 26

10:25 a.m.

Campus police were flagged down by an S.P.D. officer concerning an incident at the UCA apartments the night before. The complainant, a resident, said that her ex-boyfriend had made death threats and had thrown her down. She also told the officers that he had called next morning and threatened again. Caddo Sheriff's Department handled the call the night before and was issuing a warrant for the suspect's arrest. Officers advised the complainant to call 911 immediately if he returned to the property.

Calendar of events

Thu April 11

10:30 a.m.
Black Student Assoc.
Red River Room
SGA
Webster Room

7 p.m.
Sigma Phi Epsilon
Red River Room

Fri April 12

1:30 p.m.
Biology Club Seminar
Dr. Bob Sheridan
SC 229

6:30 p.m.
Chi Alpha
DeSoto Room

Sat April 13

8 a.m.
National Counselor
Examination
Webster, Red River
and DeSoto Rooms

6 p.m.
Confederate History
Month Ball
U.C. Theater

Sun April 14

5 p.m.
Phi Mu
LA A&B Room

Tau Alpha Epsilon
DeSoto Room

Zeta Tau Alpha
Webster and Pilots
Room

7 p.m.
Phi Delta Theta
Red River Room

Mon April 15

Tax day!!!

2 p.m.
Student-Teacher Tea
U.C. Ballroom

Tue April 16

10:30 a.m.
Health Science
Seminar- Surgical
Technology/Dialysis
Technology
SC 228

Chi Alpha Meeting
Caddo-Bossier

2 p.m.
Pilot's Cru Meeting
Red River Room

Wed April 17

7 p.m.
Society of Reason
2nd Floor U.C.

Thu April 18

10:30 a.m.
Biology Club Seminar-Dr.
Stacey Eiland
SC 229
Catholic Student Union
Meeting
Pilot's Room

Black Students Association
Caddo/Bossier Room

SGA
Webster Room

7 p.m.
Sigma Phi Epsilon
Red River Room

Fri April 19

12 p.m.
SOC Awards
U.C. Ballroom

Sat April 20

Sun April 21

Student Art Show, U.C. Gallery

Pulitzer Prize winning author to visit LSUS

by
Allison Burns

Pulitzer Prize winner Tyler Bridges will speak at the 11th annual Authors in April luncheon benefiting the LSUS Pioneer Heritage Center. The author of "Bad Bet on the Bayou: The Rise of Gambling in Louisiana and the Fall of Governor Edwin Edwards" will also hold a writer's workshop in Noel Memorial Library the day before the luncheon.

Bridges wrote his latest book after three years of covering legalized gambling in Louisiana. In his book, Bridges explains former Gov. Edwin Edwards' involvement in the legalization of gambling in the state.

Bridges wrote his first book, "The Rise of David Duke," after covering Duke's political campaign and breaking news stories on his involvement with the Ku Klux Klan while Bridges was a reporter for the New Orleans Times-Picayune. Bridges won the best investigative reporter award from the New Orleans Press Club for his coverage of Duke.

"We wanted Bridges because of his broad appeal to men and women on a national level," said Marguerite Plummer, executive director of the Pioneer Heritage Center. "His books are very popular, and the local bookstore has a hard time keeping them on the shelves."

Bridges has spent the past two years covering Miami politics for the Miami Herald, where he has been a member of two Pulitzer Prize-winning teams for investigative and deadline reporting. He previously worked as a free-lance reporter in South America, writing for The Washington Post, The Wall Street

Journal and Christian Science Monitor.

The Authors in April luncheon will be held at noon on Saturday, April 20 at the Shreveport Country Club. The cost is \$40 per person, \$20 of which is a donation to the LSUS Pioneer Heritage Center. Advance payment and registration is required.

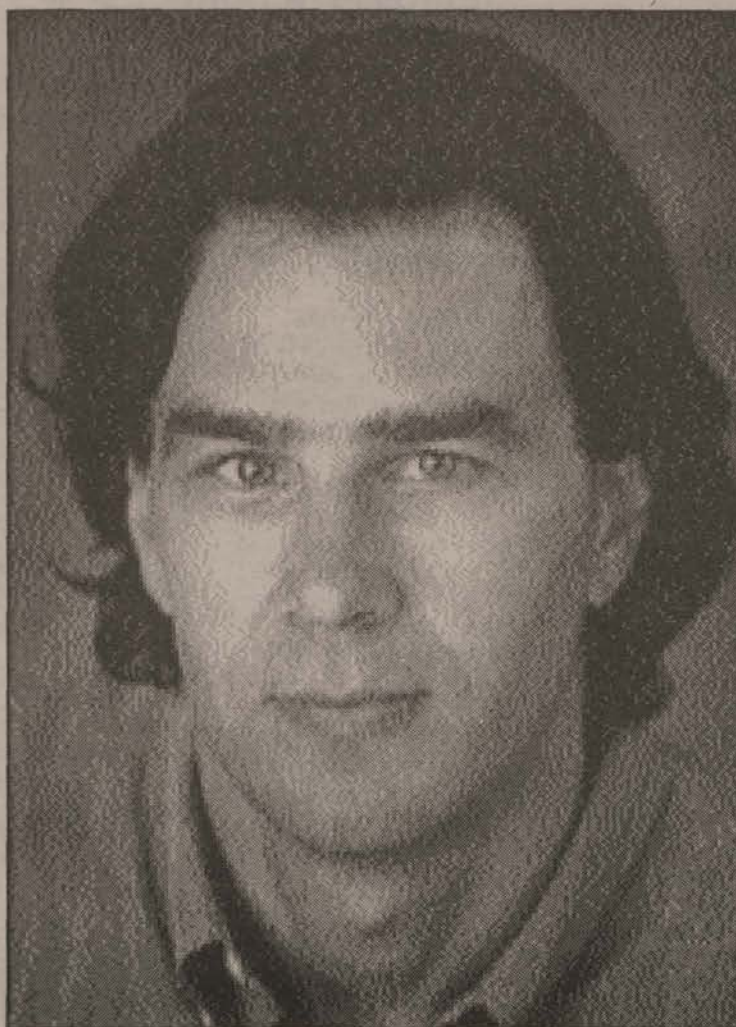
The writer's workshop, which is co-sponsored by The Times, will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., Friday, April 19 on the third floor of the Noel Memorial Library. The workshop is free and open to the community, but advance registration is recommended because space is limited.

"We know that students are busy on their weekends finishing term papers and such, and we wanted to give them a free access to the author," said Plummer. Plummer said she hopes the workshop will be of interest to all, including journalism majors who might benefit from hearing some tricks of the trade.

For more information or to register for either event, call Plummer at 797-5332.

Bridges will sign his books at the workshop and at the benefit luncheon. A percentage of sales from Bridges's book at that time will benefit the Pioneer Heritage Center.

Proceeds from the Authors in April luncheon accounts for about one-third of the Pioneer Heritage Center's annual budget. The main purpose of the center is to collect, preserve and interpret the history and cultural heritage of the region. Donations are used for expenses, including the preservation of the buildings, salaries and general expenses of education programs at the center.



Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tyler Bridges will host a writer's workshop open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m., Friday, April 19 on the third floor of Noel Memorial Library.

College of Liberal Arts offers scholarship

by
Allison Burns

The College of Liberal Arts will award a scholarship to one junior or senior in the College of Liberal Arts for the academic year starting in the fall. The LSUS Alumni Liberal Arts Scholarship funded by the LSUS Alumni Association will award \$250 to \$500 for the fall semester and \$250 for the spring semester.

Each year every department chair nominates four to five students, then the College Scholarship Committee selects the recipient.

This year, however, all nominees were found not eligible for the scholarship because they either were not full-time students or they received scholarships or grants from another source.

"We see this as a good thing and a bad thing," said Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Merrell Knighten. "It's good because we see many of our students are

receiving funding to help with paying for school, but at the same time it is bad because this scholarship could go unused."

In order to qualify for the award, a liberal arts student must have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.5, be a full-time student and must not receive any type of grant or scholarship from any other source.

The committee will be looking for this criteria, as well as the student's involvement in the school and/or community. The scholarship is awarded for one academic year, and the student cannot retain the scholarship beyond that year.

Interested students may send a letter to the College Scholarship Committee, One University Place, Shreveport, Louisiana 71115.

The sooner letters are received the better, but they must be received no later than April 20.

LSUS open house to give Shreveport a closer look

by
Misty McClintock

LSUS will hold an open house to spread the news about what's happening on campus to the community Saturday. The event is open to parents, students and any other interested members of the community.

The open house is a joint effort of the university's recruitment committee and all the LSUS colleges. Each college will have the opportunity to give presentations and speak about current course offerings.

Paula Atkins, chair of the recruitment committee, said the whole purpose of the open house is to "showcase LSUS to Shreveport." Atkins, who is also the assistant director of counseling services, will be doing presentations on managing stress and on the counseling center at the event.

This year's open house will be held in conjunction with Preview, an LSUS recruiting event for area high school students.

For more information, contact Atkins at 797-5365 or patkins@pilot.lsus.edu.

Pioneer Heritage Center gets new chapel

by
Jessica Dillman

The LSUS Pioneer Heritage Center has received a new building, the Riverfront Mission Chapel, from First Baptist Church of Shreveport.

Built in the 1930s, the Mission Chapel served as a place of schooling and worship for evictees living in downtown Shreveport during the Depression. The chapel is also the location where nationally renowned pianist Van Cliburn gave his first public performance as a child.

With the help of First Baptist Church, the Pioneer Heritage Center will restore the chapel, complete with new pews and a steeple. The restored chapel will become a part of the center's tours.

"We will use the chapel in our one-room school interpretations. It will also be available for small weddings," said Marty Young, assistant director of the Pioneer Heritage Center.

The building is located in the center's complex on the east side of the LSUS campus.

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American Humanics Volunteer Fair brings organizations to campus to expose students to volunteering opportunities

by
Candice Leone

The American Humanics Student Association held its semi-annual volunteer fair last Thursday in the University Center lobby. Students, faculty and administrators, as well as the general public, had a chance to speak with the representatives from about 24 local, non-profit organizations on campus who informed possible volunteers about their organization, its cause and what they can do to help.

Amanda Joy Bell, a former president of American Humanics who started the volunteer fair at LSUS a few years ago, said the purpose of the fair is to allow the general public to get information about non-profit organizations and to "get involved." Bell is now the event coordinator for the Institute for Human Services and Public Policies at LSUS.

Bell said she started the fair because she felt there was a need to let people know how they could help in the community. "People need to get involved," she said. "You never know when you're going to need these services yourself."

The current president of American Humanics, Stacey Bass, said the fair is growing and becoming more successful each time it is held. The number of

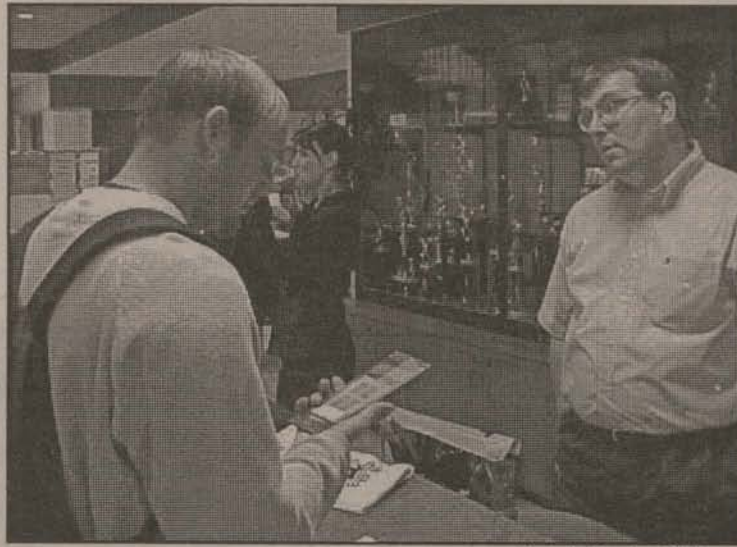


Photo by Dominic Claiborne

Representatives from many non-profit organizations visited LSUS last Thursday during American Humanics' Volunteer Fair.

participating organizations jumped from 13 last semester to 24 Thursday.

Bass said participating organizations are also seeing an increase in the number of their volunteers. Out of the estimated 50 patrons who attended the fair last semester, about 25 of them actually volunteered their time, Bass said.

Letrell Johnson, a freshman management and administration major, said he went to the fair to find out more information about organizations like Americorp. "I would like to volunteer, but I

don't have very much time," Johnson said. "I want to talk to some of (the organizations) and find out more."

Many of the representatives at the fair said their organization is flexible and that they can work around any volunteer's schedule. K.C. Kilpatrick, director of volunteer programs for the Providence House, said that any time a volunteer can donate, no matter when it is, is appreciated by his organization.

"There is no particular time for someone to volunteer," Kilpatrick said. "We have various

needs and can design a schedule (to volunteer) for each person. We always need people."

The volunteer fair could also be an opportunity to help students find an internship. Liz Mitchell, community investment coordinator for United Way, said the fair was a chance to talk with possible volunteers and possible interns.

"We have a place for students of a variety of majors, and we have gotten some great leads today," Mitchell said. Mitchell also said she was impressed by the number of students who showed interest in the organizations.

Community service and volunteering can also be an activity for clubs and organizations on campus to participate in together. Benjamin Thomas, a junior secondary education major and vice president of SGA, said he came to the fair to get ideas not only for himself, but also for the SGA and his fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon. Thomas said he wasn't sure which organization he would choose, but that he would definitely be volunteering his time.

The next volunteer fair at LSUS is scheduled for October. For more information, contact Bass in the American Humanics Student Association office at 795-4245.

YWCA works to empower women

by
Jennie Limerick

The Young Women's Christian Association of Northwest Louisiana has been making its voice heard on the LSUS campus. The YWCA recently participated in the LSUS production of "The Vagina Monologues" and hosted a lunch and book review for Lalita Tade-my's novel "Cane River."

Although the YWCA hasn't had a big presence on the LSUS campus in the past, public relations director Krystal Smith said she's now incorporating the college campus into the organization's mission to promote the "empowerment of women." Although Tade-my's was the first book discussion that the YWCA has arranged, there are plans for more. The organization is interested in promoting local authors and others who are important to the community.

"The lunch and book review was a huge success," Smith said. "We had over 60 participants. We now have out a full calendar for the remainder of the year."

The YWCA set up a booth outside the performance of "The Vagina Monologues" that took place on the LSUS campus in February. "The Vagina Monologues" at LSUS was absolutely phenomenal," said Smith, one of many YWCA staff members in the audience. "It was far better than what was done on HBO. Once it was said and done, all those that did not attend, after they heard about it, were wishing they had."

The YWCA of Northwest Louisiana works daily to help women of all ethnic backgrounds and incomes to become more empowered. Smith said a recruiting effort on the LSUS campus can aid the YWCA in reaching its goals.

"We are working overtime on making sure that all of Shreveport/Bossier know that we are the premiere women's agency in Northwest Louisiana," Smith said. "The goal is definitely to continue being as active with LSUS as possible."

Phi Kappa Phi initiates new members

by
Heather Hovis

The LSUS chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, the oldest honor society in America, initiated 32 students and 3 faculty members into the organization on March 14 at Noel Memorial Library.

The ceremony included the initiation of the 35 new members and installment of the new officers.

Dorothy Gwin, executive director of the Community Foundation of Shreveport-Bossier, was the guest speaker for the event. Membership into the society is by invitation only.

Phi Kappa Phi's public relations officer, Stephen Banks, said the organization has a membership committee which reviews potential members based on their achievements, scholarly performance and exemplary character.

The committee then invites those whom they feel are worthy of the honor to join the honor organization.

The university is limited in the number of invitations it may

extend.

No more than one faculty member and graduate student from each college may be nominated by the dean for admission and the university may not invite more than 10 percent of the number of graduates from the previous year.

Students who are juniors must be in the top 5 percent of their class and students who are seniors must be in the top 10 percent of their class. Phi Kappa Phi is the only honor society at LSUS that incorporates members of all majors.

The LSUS chapter is one of 282 active chapters. College of Education Dean Charles Magnes, one of the new initiates, said he feels a continual drive to learn.

Magnes came to LSUS in August and has not previously been at a campus with an active chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

New initiate Timothy Winter, chair of the department of kinesiology and health science, has four degrees and continues to pursue more education with every spare moment he has.

"I am one of those individu-

als that would go to school forever if they would let me, and my behaviors reflect this," he said.

Phi Kappa Phi members receive publications from the national organization, are eligi-

ble for scholarly awards and have the opportunity to serve in leadership positions within the local chapter and the regional and national committees.

Newly initiated were the following:

Faculty - Dr. Charles Manges, professor and dean of the College of Education; Dr. Binshan Lin, Professor of Management, and Dr. Timothy Winter, professor and chairman of the Department of Kinesiology and Health Science.

Graduate students and the degrees they are pursuing - Paula B. Atkins, Master of Science in Counseling Psychology; Anthony S. Evangelista, Master of Business Administration; Lori A. Gates, Master of Science in Systems Technology; Michelle K. Gormanous, Specialist in School Psychology, and Donna Kay Grosjean, Master of Science in Human Services Administration.

Seniors - Mary Pellie Ascol, Laura L. Beliech, Brianne C. Best, Leslie D. Burrow, Colleen Cookson, Jan M. Hampton, Susan J. Hastings, Marguerite Jowers-McKinley, Mehrzad Khodavandi, Kathy P. Palmer, Amy C. Redel, Monica M. Santos and Margaret Wagner.

Juniors - Angela M. Brock, Allison G. Burns, Stephanie A. Cochrane, Gina M. Guy, Jennifer L. Knafla, Amy R. Lafitte, Arthur D. Marrs, Charles V. Nicolavsu, Carla A. Preiss, William K. Rutherford, Admir Seferovic, Kathleen M. Sheffield, Sandra Whatley-Sweet, and Deborah J. Windham.



LSUS baseball team sets goals with playoff dreams

by
Rachal Hayes

The LSUS Pilots baseball team has been tacking wins to its record during the last few weeks and is currently in position to make the playoffs.

As of April 7, the Pilots were third in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference behind William Carey College and Loyola University with a conference record of 12-9.

The top four teams in the conference will compete in the playoffs. In order to stay competitive with the top four teams, head coach Rocky Musgraves said the team must tighten up on its defensive play and play smart offense.

"We've got to manufacture runs without hits," Musgraves said.

Since Loyola swept the Pilots in a three-game series at LSUS's home field the weekend of March 22, the Pilots have won eight of their last 10 games. Among the games were big wins against Nicholls State University, a Division I team, and Southern Arkansas University, a Division II team that is ranked seventh in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

On March 29, the Pilots traveled to Mobile, Ala., where they swept the three-game series against Springhill College. The Pilots win knocked Springhill

into fourth place in the GCAC.

The visiting Pilots swept Talladega College in a three-game series the weekend of April 5, keeping the Pilots in a solid third place in the GCAC. The Pilots scored 46 runs total and held Talladega College to just two runs in the series.

Musgraves said one of the team's strengths is its pitching staff. "Andy Heckman and the pitching staff have done an exceptional job of keeping us in ball games," Musgraves said. Musgraves said the offense has really been "on" lately and just needs to keep up with the little things offensively.

One of the Pilots' key offensive players, senior first baseman Gary Moraes, was recently named GCAC player of the week. "Moraes is one of our big RBI guys and we count on him to bring in runs," Musgraves said.

Moraes currently holds the LSUS record for hitting the most homeruns—three—in one game.

As the Pilots head toward the end of the season, they are gearing up to face William Carey on April 12 and 13. Their last regular season game will be against Loyola.

The Pilots will play their last home game of the season against the University of Mobile on Saturday, April 20.

Society of Reason sharpens students' communication skills by offering 'cross-pollination of ideas'

by
Dean Jagot

Students interested in talking about topics on a deeper level may want to look into joining the Society of Reason.

The Society of Reason is a group of people who gather and discuss different topics in an open forum. The group meets formally at 7 p.m. each Wednesday on the second floor of the University Center. Club members also spend a lot of time just hanging out and socializing on a regular basis.

"The purpose of the Society of Reason is to further the cross-pollination of ideas," said President Danny Martin. "So long as a member is open to different viewpoints, they can't help but benefit."

Members of the organization enjoy looking into topics in every possible way. Their discussions help individuals to think for themselves and

see the other sides of topics.

Students must attend meetings regularly in order to join the Society of Reason. The organization takes the phrase "put in your two cents' worth" literally; membership fees are an inexpensive two cents. Memberships last as long as members attend meetings and communicate with group members on a regular basis. Memberships are not limited to LSUS students; anyone with an open mind can join. There are currently about 12 members, but there is no set limit on the number of members.

"The Society of Reason is a good opportunity to sharpen reasoning and communication skills," Martin said. He added that college life causes students to "stick to one intellectual path and become stuck in it," preventing them from being introduced to other opinions.

For more information, e-mail Martin at fractaldrifter@hotmail.com.

SGA's new senators dive into college politics after election

Continued from page 1
Arts were the only candidates running opposed.

Sanders, who served as senator in the fall semester, is returning for another term while Claiborne is new to the association. Claiborne said he was a little surprised at the results of the

election.

"I guess I got a better response than I originally thought," Claiborne said. "But the fun part is over, now I have to get to work."

The SGA meets every Thursday during common hour in the Webster Room of the University Center.

For more information, con-

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Academic Awards Convocation recognizes student excellence

by
Myra Taylor

LSUS will be holding its annual Academic Awards Convocation at 12:15 p.m. Friday, April 12 in the University Center Theatre.

About 130 students will be honored in three categories.

LSUS faculty members Helen Taylor and Thomas DuBose will serve as masters of ceremonies. The ceremony is open to everyone.

This year's ceremony will be different because only students will receive awards, said Patricia Doerr, chairman of the Awards and Recognition Committee which coordinates the convocation.

Before, five faculty awards were also given, but Doerr said the convocation is the wrong audience for the faculty awards.

The chancellor's list awards will be given to students who have made the chancellor's list in the spring and fall of 2001.

The chancellor will present the awards to about 55 students.

One student in each degree program will receive a university award.

Recipients must be a sophomore, junior or senior and are selected by the faculty of each program.

The dean of each college will present the awards for the degree programs in that college.

Some students will receive sponsored awards, which are given by the donor of the particular award and may include stipends or scholarships.

Vice Chancellor Stuart Mills will present 40 sponsored awards.

MUSIC VIEWS

by
Jessica Dillman

LSUS criminal justice senior Chad Spears has been busy turning one of his hobbies into a possible career. Spears is the lead singer in the up and coming band Kringe.

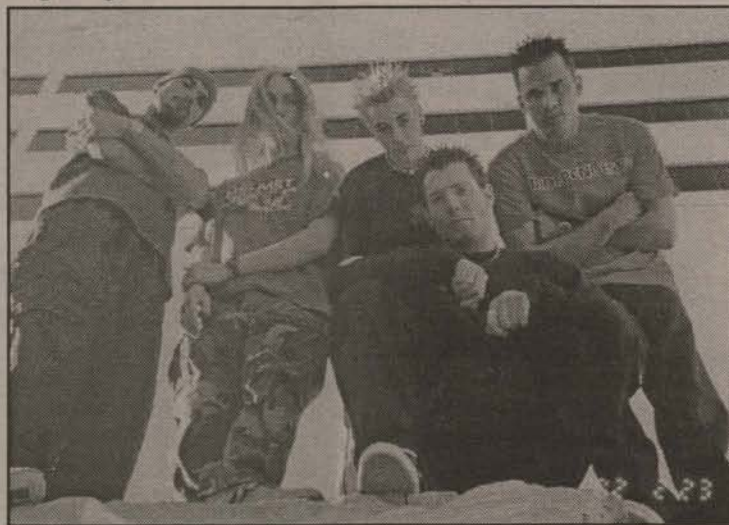
Spears, along with drummer Jared Meade, bassist Trey Dion and guitarists Dale Lilley and John Mason, have been trying to attract the attention of record labels. The group has already released a CD containing five original songs.

The band's origin is quite different from that of other local bands. Five musicians from five different bands got together just to hang out and practice, but before they knew it they quit their other bands and Kringe was born.

"I used to play in a band called Enmity," Spears said. "I have been friends with Jared Meade for a long time, so we decided to recruit some members from other local bands. We started to play together in August and pretty soon our side project

became our main interest."

Spears said he likes to refer to his music as "groove metal." "I wanted to play hard core, but I also wanted people to be able to sing along," he said.



Kringe

Photo courtesy of Kringe

Kringe's first performance was at Taylortown Tavern. The members claim it was the crowd's response at that show that made them feel like they could really make it big.

play original material, they spend a great deal of time collaborating on new songs. Spears, who writes the majority of the lyrics, said his inspiration comes from a variety of places.

Kringe can also be seen at Pizza King on Kings Highway, Austin Place and Texas Blues Bar in Longview, Texas.

Since the band prefers to

"I like to tell stories through my words," he said. "Some are past experiences, some aren't."

The recently released CD contains songs like "Drowning" about suicide, "Pain of Redemption" about a dream Spears had involving the Grim Reaper and "Follow Me," which was written after Sept. 11.

"Fade Away" was written about one of Spears' ex-girlfriends.

"That's what they (ex-girlfriends) are good for, you can write stuff about them," Spears said.

Kringe has been inspired by bands and musicians including The Doors, Slipknot, Nothingface and Pantera. When the boys of Kringe go out to see local bands, they usually watch Numb, Pleasuresic and American Tragedy.

Spears' advice to aspiring musicians is to be original. "Put your feelings into your songs and express them like no one else could," he said.

For more information, visit <http://www.kringekore.com>.

SGA resolves to extend common hour

by
Raechal Leone

The SGA Senate unanimously passed a resolution Thursday that would extend the length of common hour from 45 minutes to an hour, pushing back afternoon classes.

The bill will be passed on to the Faculty Senate and the Chancellor's Office. If approved, the change would go into effect next spring at the earliest, since class

schedules through next fall have already been printed.

The reason for the Senate's decision is that organizations are "constrained by time," according to Ben Thomas, who was elected SGA vice president last month. Thomas previously served as president pro tempore of the Senate.

In other business, an SGA committee is working on what President Jeff Strozier called the first in a series of bills aimed at student retention. Senators are

constructing a bill that would implement B-term, or half-semester classes, at LSUS.

B-term classes begin in the middle of a semester, but are worth the same number of credits as full-semester classes since B-terms classes meet longer than full semester classes each week. Strozier said 100- and 200-level classes would be offered as B-terms.

Strozier said the plan could increase student retention because students who need to

earn 12 hours to retain financial aid or stay in school can pick up a B-term class if they are failing or dropped a full-semester class and continue to attend LSUS.

"It gives students options and more flexibility with their schedules," Strozier said.

The SGA is consulting the SGA at Northwestern State University, where students have taken B-term classes for years, on the logistics, including how B-term classes at LSUS would affect faculty.

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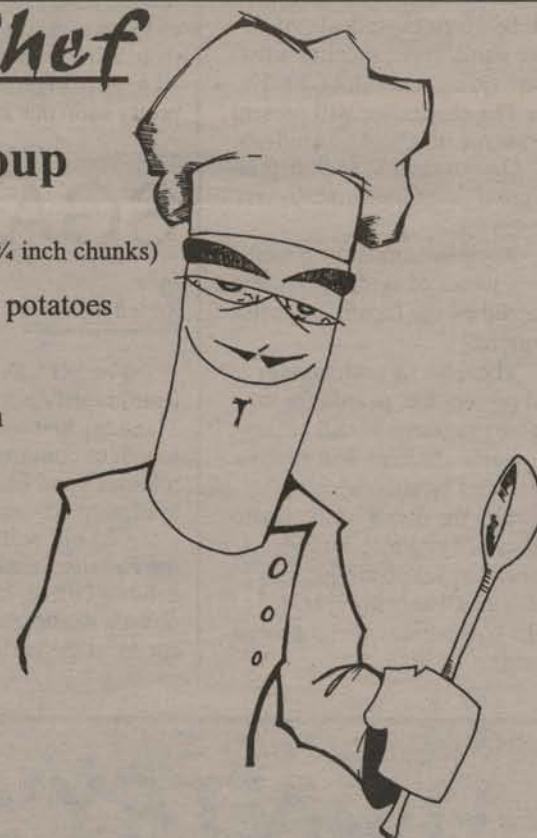
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Stoned Chef**Potato Soup**

- 3 potatoes (chopped about ¾ inch chunks)
- 1 ½ cups instant mashed potatoes
- 4 tablespoons butter
- ¾ cup thinly diced onion
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup half-and-half
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper



Boil potatoes until done. Remove from water and set aside to cool. Melt butter in large pan, and sauté onions until light brown.

WAKE! Add flour to melted butter and onions and stir. Add broth, water, potato flakes, cornstarch, salt and pepper.

Reduce heat and simmer for five minutes. Add potato chunks and half-and-half. Bring to a boil and then simmer for 10-15 minutes or until thick.

Serve it up with a shredded cheese topping. Yummy! Enjoy! -S.Chef

